

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

09/892,350

Applicant(s)

EWING ET AL.

Examiner

DOHM CHANKONG

Art Unit

2452

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/24/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-9.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/6/09, 4/3/09
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/6/09
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Dohm Chankong/
Examiner, Art Unit 2452

/John Follansbee/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2451

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Henson on 4/6/2009.

2. The application has been amended as follows: **Claims 2 and 10-20 are cancelled. Claims 1 and 9 are amended as follows.**

Claim 1. (currently amended): A reconfigurable network-equipment power- management system, comprising:

a power-distribution apparatus having a power input disposed in the power- distribution apparatus and a communication interface disposed in the power- distribution apparatus for communicating with a remote user system;

a plurality of power-control outlets disposed in the power-distribution apparatus, the plurality of power-control outlets connectable in power supply communication with the power input and one or more separate electronic appliances;

a plurality of power-control relays disposed in the power-distribution apparatus, each of the plurality of power-control relays in power control communication with at least one among the plurality of power-control outlets, whereby the plurality of power-control outlets and the

plurality of power-control relays provide operating power to the one or more separate electronic appliances and are able to interrupt the operating power to the one or more separate electronic appliances;

a power-control outlet user configuration accessible by the remote user system for affecting the power provided or interrupted to the plurality of power- control outlets, wherein the power-control outlet user configuration comprises user configuration data for at least one of the plurality of power-control outlets disposed in the power-distribution apparatus;

a memory disposed in the power-distribution apparatus and having a power- control outlet user configuration storage area; and

at least one power controller disposed in the power-distribution apparatus, wherein the at least one power controller corresponds to at least two of the plurality of power-control outlets, the at least one power controller comprising a power-control outlet user configuration transfer mechanism in communication with the communication interface accessible by the remote user system, whereby the power-control outlet user configuration transfer mechanism imports and exports the power-control outlet user configuration data between the power-distribution apparatus and the remote user system via the communication interface as a plurality of data packets that are assembled to form the power-control outlet user configuration[.]; and

a network software conversion agent in communication with a remote power manager at the remote user system, whereby the network software conversion agent converts software commands communicated as TCP/IP packets into signals that can be understood by the remote power manager.

Claim 9. (currently amended): The system of claim 1, further comprising:

~~a network software conversion agent in communication with a remote power manager at the remote user system, whereby the network software conversion agent converts software commands communicated as TCP/IP packets into signals that can be understood by the remote power manager;~~

a command mechanism in communication with the power-control outlet user configuration transfer mechanism, whereby the command mechanism recognizes a first user command to upload the power-control outlet user configuration from the memory disposed in the power-distribution apparatus to a destination and recognizes a second user command to download a substitute power-control outlet user configuration to the memory disposed in the power- distribution apparatus from a source;

a transfer mechanism, whereby the transfer mechanism checks the integrity of the substitute power-control outlet user configuration downloaded to the memory disposed in the power-distribution apparatus and rejects a corrupted-file transfer, and whereby the transfer mechanism also checks the integrity of the substitute power-control outlet user configuration data downloaded to the memory disposed in the power-distribution apparatus and adopts for use an acceptable data transfer; and

an editor application, whereby the editor application allows for modification of the power-control outlet user configuration into a substitute user configuration.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This amendment incorporates the limitations of claim 2 into claim 1. Specifically, the examiner found the limitations with respect to a network software conversation agent that submitted commands as TCP/IP packets to the remote power manager to be directed to allowable subject matter when considered in combination with the limitations of claim 1. As amended, claim 1 distinguishes itself over the prior art by delineating a system for managing power distribution over a network. Claim 1 recites using TCP/IP packets as a means to submit commands to a remote power manager at a client device as well as a power-distribution apparatus with power-control outlets that are controlled through a user configuration that is imported and exported to the remote power manager. By combination of these elements, claim 1 now clearly and distinctly describe important features of the power management system and therefore show a patentable distinction over the prior art. Claims 3-9 are allowed because of their dependence on claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DOHM CHANKONG whose telephone number is (571)272-3942. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday [8:30 AM to 4:30 PM].

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571.272.3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dohm Chankong/
Examiner, Art Unit 2452
/John Follansbee/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2451